CLAIMS:

1. A vascular damaging agent which is a compound of formula IA

A-X-B

IA

Wherein

A is a substituted *cis*-stilbene moiety

X is a linker bond, atom or group

B is a moiety derived from an inhibitor of the formation or action of nitric oxide in mammalian systems said moiety having said inhibitor properties and attached to the molecule by a valency bond

and the hydrates, pharmaceutically acceptable salts and prodrugs thereof.

2. A vascular damaging agent which is a compound of formula I

A-X-B

I

Wherein

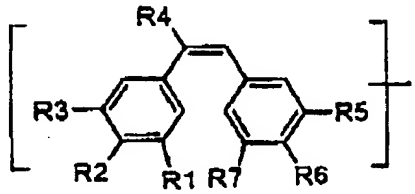
A is a substituted *cis*-stilbene moiety

X is a linker bond, atom or group

B is a moiety derived from an inhibitor of nitric oxide synthase said moiety having inhibitor properties and attached to the molecule by a valency bond

and the hydrates, pharmaceutically acceptable salts and prodrugs thereof.

3. A vascular damaging agent according to claim 2 in which the *cis*-stilbene moiety is a group of formula II



II

Wherein

R1, R2 and R3 are each independently H, optionally substituted alkoxy, optionally substituted alkyl or halogen

R4 is hydrogen or cyano

R5, R6 and R7 are each independently H, hydroxy, optionally substituted alkoxy, optionally substituted alkyl, halogen, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, cyano, nitro, carboxyl, alkanoyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyloxy, alkoxycarbonylamino, aminocarbonylamino, alkylaminocarbonylamino, dialkylaminocarbonylamino, alkylcarbonylamino, alkylsulphonyl, aminosulphonyl, alkylaminosulphonyl, dialkylaminosulphonyl, alkylsulphonylamino, aminosulphonylamino, alkylaminosulphonylamino, dialkylaminosulphonylamino, mercapto, alkylsulphanyl or alkylsulphinyl,

with the proviso that at least two of R1, R2 and R3 must be optionally substituted alkoxy.

4. An agent according to either of claims 2 and 3 in which the linker group X is a bond.

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5. An agent according to either of claims 2 and 3 in which the linker group is selected from an optionally substituted methylene chain, or -$(CH_2)_m$-Y-$(CH_2)_n$- wherein Y is selected from -O-, -S-, -S(O)-, -SO_2-, -NH-, -Nalkyl-, -CO-, -OC(O)-, -NHC(O)-, -N(alkyl)C(O)-, -NHC(O)NH-, -NalkylC(O)NH-, -NalkylC(O)Nalkyl-, -$NHSO_2$-, -NalkylSO_2-, -$NHSO_2NH$-, -NalkylSO_2NH-, -NalkylSO_2Nalkyl- and -OC(O)O-, m is 0-3 and n is 0-3.

6. An agent according to any one of claims 2 to 5 in which the nitric oxide synthase inhibitor moiety is selected from a group derived from an amino acid inhibitor of nitric oxide synthase. a thiocitrulline derivative, an S-alkylisothiourea derivative or 2-aminopyridine derivative.

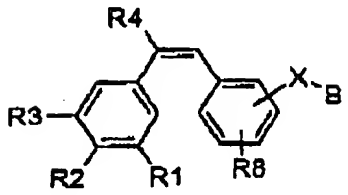
7. An agent according to claim 6 in which the group derived from an amino acid inhibitor of nitric oxide synthase is a group -C(O)CH(NH_2)-(CH_2)p-NHC(NH)Z wherein p is 1-5 and Z is alkyl, alkylamino, dialkylamino, nitroamino, hydrazino or alkylthio, or a group -NHCH(CO_2R10)-(CH_2)p-NHC(NH)Z where p and Z are as hereinbefore described and R10 is hydrogen or alkyl.

8. An agent according to claim 6 in which the thiocitrulline group is -C(O)CH(NH_2)-(CH_2)p-NHC(S)NH_2 or a group -NHCH(CO_2R10)-(CH_2)p-NHC(S)NH_2 .

9. An agent according to claim 6 in which the derivative of S-alkylisothiourea is -(CH_2)p-SC(NH)NH_2 .

10. An agent according to claim 6 in which the derivative of 2-aminopyridine is 4-methyl-2-pyridinylamino.

11. An agent according to claim 2 wherein the compound is



III

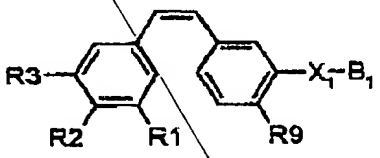
Wherein

R1, R2, R3, R4, X and B are as hereinbefore described

R8 is alkyl, amino, hydroxy, alkoxy or halogen

12. An agent according to claim 11 wherein the compounds are of formula III wherein R1, R2, R3, R4, are as hereinbefore described, R8 is alkyl, amino, hydroxy, alkoxy or halogen, X is -O- or -NH- and B is a group $-C(O)CH(NH_2)-(CH_2)p-NHC(NH)Z$ wherein p is 1-5 and Z is alkyl, alkylamino, dialkylamino, nitroamino, hydrazino or alkylthio or a group $-NHCH(CO_2R10)-(CH_2)p-NHC(NH)Z$ where p, Z and R10 are as hereinbefore described.

13. An agent according to claim 1 wherein the agent is of formula



IV

Wherein

R1, R2 and R3 are as hereinbefore described

R9 is alkyl, alkoxy or halogen

X_1 is O or NH

B_1 is a group $-C(O)CH(NH_2)-(CH_2)p-NHC(NH)Z$ wherein p is 1-5 and Z is alkyl, alkylamino, dialkylamino, nitroamino, hydrazino or alkylthio.

14. An agent according to claim 2 which is selected from

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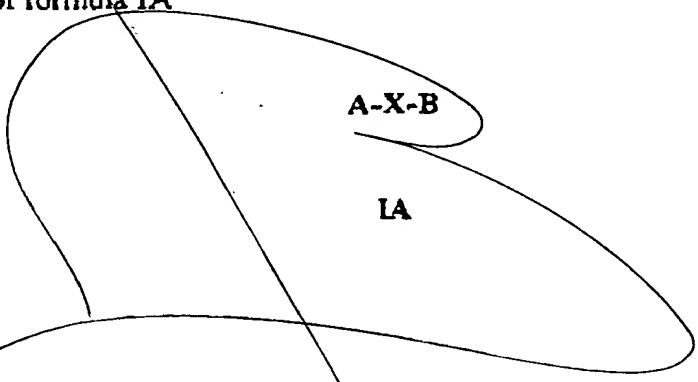
(Z)-1-(4-Methoxy-3-N^G-nitroarginyloxyphenyl)-2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)ethene

(Z)-N-[2-methoxy-5-[2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)ethenyl]phenoxycarbonyl]N^G-nitroarginine methyl ester

(Z)-N-[2-methoxy-5-[2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)ethenyl]phenoxycarbonyl]N^G-nitroarginine

(Z)-N-[2-methyl-5-[2-(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)ethenyl]phenoxycarbonyl]N^G-nitroarginine methyl ester

15. Use of a substituted stilbene compound in preparation of a medicament for the treatment of diseases involving neovascularisation characterised in that the stilbene compound is of formula IA



IA

Wherein

A is a substituted *cis*-stilbene moiety

X is a linker bond, atom or group

B is a moiety derived from an inhibitor of the formation or action of nitric oxide in mammalian systems said moiety having inhibitor properties and attached to the molecule by a valency bond

and the hydrates, pharmaceutically acceptable salts and prodrugs thereof.

16. Use of a substituted stilbene compound in preparation of a medicament for the treatment of diseases involving neovascularisation characterised in that the stilbene compound is of formula I

A-X-B

I

Wherein

A is a substituted *cis*-stilbene moiety

X is a linker bond, atom or group

B is a moiety derived from an inhibitor of nitric oxide synthase said moiety having inhibitor properties and attached to the molecule by a valency bond

and the hydrates, pharmaceutically acceptable salts and prodrugs thereof.

17. A method for the treatment of diseases involving neovascularisation characterised by the administration of a stilbene derivative of formula I

A-X-B

IA

Wherein

A is a substituted *cis*-stilbene moiety

X is a linker bond, atom or group

B is a moiety derived from an inhibitor of the formation or action of nitric oxide in mammalian systems said moiety having inhibitor properties and attached to the molecule by a valency bond

and the hydrates, pharmaceutically acceptable salts and prodrugs thereof.

18. A method for the treatment of diseases involving neovascularisation characterised by the administration of a stilbene derivative of formula I

A-X-B

I

Wherein

A is a substituted *cis*-stilbene moiety

X is a linker bond, atom or group

B is a moiety derived from an inhibitor of nitric oxide synthase said moiety having inhibitor properties and attached to the molecule by a valency bond

and the hydrates, pharmaceutically acceptable salts and prodrugs thereof.

add R2

in R1

add R2